

REMARKS

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-10 will be pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3 are independent.

Applicant has amended the claims to conform to U.S. patent practice. Applicants have added claims 7-10 to remove multiple dependent claims. Applicants have inserted an Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicants have not raised any issue of new matter.

Conclusion

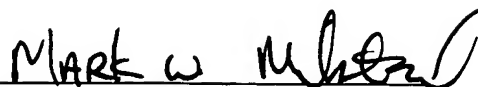
The specification is in the proper format. The present claims define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, she is invited to telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2334 for any additional

fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly,
extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosure: Abstract of the Disclosure

Attorney Docket: O-2002.737 US
Customer No.: 31846
Express Mail: EV 561841285 US